

PRESS NOTE

WEBUILD: ENGINES FIRED UP TODAY FOR TBM “PARTENOPE”, THE GROUP’S LARGEST TUNNEL BORING MACHINE IN EUROPE, ON THE FIRST LOT OF THE SALERNO–REGGIO CALABRIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL LINE

THE FIRST LARGE TBM ON THE SALERNO REGGIO CALABRIA RAIL LINE BEGINS EXCAVATION OF THE SAGINARA TUNNEL TODAY, OPERATING NONSTOP 24 HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK



- *The TBM “Partenope,” equipped with a cutting head over 13 metres in diameter and 18 electric motors generating 10 megawatts of power, has begun excavating the 3-kilometre Saginara Tunnel*
- *Three of the four TBMs excavating Lot 1A Battipaglia–Romagnano on the Salerno–Reggio Calabria high-speed rail line is the largest ever deployed by Webuild in Europe. Another TBM, refurbished at Webuild’s Terni factory, is also on its way*
- *Work on Lot 1A is progressing at full speed. It is one of 19 infrastructure projects Webuild is developing in the South, providing employment for 8,100 people*

Milan, February 21, 2025 – Webuild’s largest tunnel boring machine in Europe, and the first to be operational on the Salerno Reggio Calabria high-speed rail line, has fired up its engines today, ready to excavate the Saginara Tunnel on Lot 1A Battipaglia Romagnano. The project is led by a Webuild consortium on behalf of RFI (Gruppo FS Italiane).

Joining the ignition ceremony remotely was Matteo Salvini, the Minister of Infrastructure and Transport, with the event also being attended by Lucio Menta, Special Commissioner for the Salerno Reggio Calabria High-Speed Rail Line, Nicola Meistro, Responsible Rail Operations in Italy at Webuild, and local authorities.



Measuring approximately 130 meters in length and weighing around 4,000 tonnes, the tunnel boring machine (TBM) “Partenope” features a 13.46-meter diameter cutting head, making it the largest TBM ever used by Webuild in Italy and Europe. It is powered by 18 electric motors generating a total output of 10 megawatts.

“Partenope” will now begin its journey through the hills of the Sele Valley, excavating the 3-kilometre Saginara Tunnel around the clock, seven days a week. This single-bore, double-track tunnel runs between the municipalities of Campagna and Contursi Terme in the province of Salerno. A very innovative and eco-friendly machine that will be operated and maintained by over 100 specialized technicians.

On Lot 1A Battipaglia–Romagnano of the Salerno–Reggio Calabria high-speed rail line, four tunnel boring machines (TBMs) will be in operation in the coming months to excavate eight mechanized tunnels along the route. Three of these rank among the largest ever used by Webuild Group in Italy and Europe. Alongside “Partenope”, two massive twin machines are currently being assembled, each featuring a cutting head over 13 meters in diameter. One will excavate the Serra Lunga, Acerra, and Petrolla double-track tunnels, while the other will be used for the Caterina and Sicignano double-track tunnels.

In the coming weeks, the final modules of a fourth TBM will also arrive on site, set to be used for excavating the single-track Piano Grassi and Contursi tunnels. Previously used for the Grand Paris Express in France, this machine is the first TBM to have been fully refurbished at Webuild’s innovative factory in Terni—a new industrial hub, established last year by the Group, specializing in the regeneration of TBMs and other heavy machinery.

Webuild is a global leader in underground excavation and currently has a fleet of around 60 tunnel boring machines, including those in operation, assembly, ordered, and to be ordered for ongoing projects. In Italy alone, approximately 40 TBMs are set to be deployed across multiple construction sites. Webuild is deploying 30 TBMs across Southern Italy, supporting 19 projects, including major infrastructure works that will add more than 300 kilometers of high-speed, high-capacity railway lines. Since the beginning of construction, these projects have already created 8,100 jobs, including both direct employees and subcontractors, and have involved 5,400 supply chain companies.

Lot 1A, awarded to the Xenia Consortium—led by Webuild in partnership with Pizzarotti, Ghella, and Tunnel Pro—is entirely located within the territory of the province of Salerno. It is a key part of the broader Salerno–Reggio Calabria high-speed rail project. This strategic initiative will strengthen sustainable mobility across Italy, bridging the North and South, supporting regional development, and enhancing the country’s competitiveness and integration with Europe. Specifically, Lot 1A involves constructing 35 kilometers of high-speed rail between Battipaglia and Romagnano, including 20 tunnels (eight of which will be excavated using four TBMs) and 19 viaducts. The project also includes the construction of a junction at Romagnano, enabling the new rail line to interconnect with the existing Battipaglia–Metaponto–Potenza route.

Webuild is a global leader in the design and construction of large, complex infrastructure projects in sustainable mobility, hydropower, water treatment, and green buildings. A recognized leader in the water sector, it is present in 50 countries with over 92,000 people, ranking among the leading international players in Australia, Europe and the United States. In nearly 120 years of applied engineering on more than 3,200 projects, the Group has built 14,140 kilometres of rail and metro lines, 82,533 kilometres of roads and highways, 1,020 kilometres of bridges and viaducts, 3,408 kilometres of tunnels, and 313 dams and hydropower plants. Projects include the expansion of the Panama Canal, the Long Beach International Gateway bridge in California, the Third Bosphorus Bridge in Turkey, the Sydney Metro Northwest skytrain viaduct and bridge, the Kingdom Centre skyscraper in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and metro lines in Copenhagen, Paris, Rome, Milan, Doha and Riyadh. Others under construction include the new Genoa Breakwater, the Brenner Base



Tunnel, Line C of Rome's metro network, the high-capacity railways between Genoa and Milan, and Naples and Bari, the Palermo-Catania-Messina high-capacity railway, the Snowy 2.0 hydropower scheme in Australia, and the Trojena dam network for NEOM in Saudi Arabia. As of June 30, 2024, Webuild Group achieved a total backlog of €65 billion, with more than 90% of its construction backlog related to projects linked to the advancement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As of December 31, 2023, revenues totalled €10 billion. Webuild, subject to the direction and coordination of Salini Costruttori S.p.A., is headquartered in Italy and listed on the Milan stock exchange, Borsa Italiana (WBD; WBD.MI; WBD:IM). Since 2021, it is member of the MIB ESG, the index of publicly listed Italian companies with the best ESG practices.

[More information at www.wbuildgroup.com](http://www.wbuildgroup.com)



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